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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

# Reformulation of activities under sections 9 and 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/228 A

## Report of the Secretary-General

1. Upon its review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, the General Assembly, in section I, paragraph 23, of its resolution 48/228 A of 23 December 1993, requested the Secretary-General, inter alia:

(a) To reformulate activities under section 9 (Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis), programme 1, subprogramme 5, in order to reflect all the aspects of the pertinent resolutions, as well as the relevant mandates of programme 21 (Public adminstration and finance) of the medium-term plan, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

(b) To reformulate activities under section 10 (Department for Development Support and Management Services), programme 2, in accordance with the relevant mandates of programme 21 of the medium-term plan, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

2. The present report is submitted in response to that request. It contains the proposed revised programme narrative, under section 9, programme 1, subprogramme 5, and revisions to section 10, programme 2, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/48/6/Rev.1).

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Section 9. Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

3. The following text replaces the programme narrative contained in paragraph 9.36 of document A/48/6/Rev.1:

"Subprogramme 5. Public economics: global approaches to micro-economic issues and policies

"9.36 The General Assembly, in its resolutions 46/166, 47/171, 47/187, 48/180 and 48/181, requested the Secretary-General both to strengthen operational activities and to enhance research and policy analysis on a number of matters relating to the role of the market in national economies. Those resolutions reflect the increasing recognition of the positive role of the private sector in promoting resource mobilization and securing economic efficiency and growth. However, in order to achieve those objectives, market-oriented policies also need to take into account the consequences of market imperfections and of the failure of the market to respond effectively to some key public concerns (such as some of those addressed in Agenda 21 and in the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development). Governments also need to develop policies for instances in which market-oriented polices are not appropriate. The subprogramme will examine the role, potential and shortcomings of market solutions to selected aspects of growth and development. It will involve the global examination both of measures that are intended to promote the development of markets and of the role of the market in meeting social concerns. In this way, it will contribute to the identification of policies that enable Governments to make effective use of markets to respond to the needs of society and to take alternative action where such an approach is not feasible. More specifically the programme of work for the biennium will include quantitative analysis and policy-oriented studies on the workings of market mechanisms, the role of regulation and deregulation, and privatization in the context of economic reforms in developing countries, developed market economies and economies in transition; research on the political economy of social security and safety nets in different regions and countries; studies on the role of the firm, demonopolization and other relevant policies intended to increase the efficiency of markets; determinants and effects of the location of economic activities; meeting information needs of Member States on the functioning of markets and related issues and problems that arise from the incidence of market failure.

"Activities

"1. Parliamentary services (regular budget)

"(a) Parliamentary documentation: reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on policy-oriented analysis of such issues as (i) entrepreneurship, privatization, demonopolization and administrative deregulation; and (ii) economic management in the economies in transition and their integration into the world economy;

"(b) Ad hoc expert groups: one ad hoc expert group to examine social security arrangements and social safety nets.

"2. Published material (regular budget)

"Technical material: (a) selected aspects of the international dimension of national labour markets; (b) ownership and pricing of natural resources; and (c) the effectiveness of alternative social security arrangements and social safety nets."

Section 10. Department for Development Support and Management Services

4. The narrative of programme 2 (Public administration and development management) under section 10 (Department for Development Support and Management Services of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/48/6/Rev.1) should be modified as follows:

Paragraph 10.34 (1) Replace the first sentence with the following:

"During the biennium 1994-1995 the emphasis of this programme will be placed on the strengthening of the administrative and financial systems for development of developing countries according to their development priorities."

(2) Replace the third sentence with the following:

"Particular attention will be given to working with least developed countries, especially in Africa. Attention should also be given to the countries in transition to a market economy."

Paragraph 10.35 Replace the second sentence with the following:

"New mandates arising from the most recent resolutions of the General Assembly are also included. The proposals below are divided into six special areas instead of into subprogrammes."

Paragraph 10.36 (1) The heading should read

"(a) Public sector management systems";

(2) Replace the text of paragraph 10.36 with the following (changes from original text are underlined)

"10.36 During the biennium 1994-1995 emphasis will be given to effective public sector management and administrated reform through a holistic approach, incorporating relevant institutions from all sectors into

coordinated frameworks of development activities, with each institution and each sector assuming appropriate roles in policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Activities will include innovative approaches to public sector management with a view to catalysing development, strengthening human capacities, competing for greater efficiency, focusing on mission, funding of results rather than inputs and in particular transforming administration to be anticipatory, enterprising, decentralized and resource-efficient. Technical assistance will be provided to government institutions, including assistance concerning analysis, advice, equipment or training, in relation to specific requirements of the country's electoral process. Technical assistance activities would include the establishment and maintenance of civic and electoral registers, legal and logistic assistance, civic and voter education, communications, vote-counting technologies, public information and institution-building."

(3) In subparagraph (a), under the heading "3. Operational activities", replace the word "governance" by the words "public sector management".

Paragraph 10.38 In the first sentence, replace the word "privatization" by the words "assisting Governments in improving performance".

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